



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, August 31, 2007

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER SERVICES FOR EVERY COUNTY
First Time Services Available for All Arizona Counties

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano has announced that domestic violence emergency shelter services are now available for every county in the state, following the opening of a new shelter in Santa Cruz County. In total, more than 1,000 emergency shelter beds are currently available at 37 shelters throughout Arizona.

Governor Napolitano has made domestic violence prevention an ongoing priority of her administration. The FY2008 budget included \$3 million to continue to address the large unmet need for emergency shelter beds for domestic violence victims. This is in addition to \$1.5 million and \$2.8 million Napolitano was able to secure in FY06 and FY07, respectively.

“Too many women in Arizona who are seeking refuge from abuse are turned away because of a lack of space,” the Governor said. “No one should be driven back to the arms of their abusers because they have nowhere else to turn. I am thrilled that we are succeeding in increasing the amount of shelter space statewide.”

In addition to advocating for increased funding, Governor Napolitano also supports awareness and education efforts among Arizona citizens. “We need to understand that domestic violence is not a private family matter. It is a crime that impacts communities and we need to work together to address it,” stressed Napolitano.

There are a number of things that citizens can do to take action, including supporting local programs, listening to someone if they disclose abuse and letting them know it’s not their fault, and calling police when they see domestic violence. It is also important to model safe, healthy relationships for children.

Concerned citizens or victims may call the National Domestic Hotline at 800-799-SAFE or visit their Web site at www.ndvh.org.

Attached is a sound bite of Governor Napolitano discussing domestic violence.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.

Cut: 07-08-31 shelters 1

As part of her focus on strengthening Arizona's families, Governor Napolitano has been a strong advocate of providing shelter to victims of domestic violence. The recent opening of a shelter in Santa Cruz County is part of a larger effort to grow shelter capacity.

:7.7 seconds – “No one who ...” “...beds throughout Arizona”

Cut: 07-08-31 shelters 2

Governor Napolitano believes that the best way to address domestic violence is through education that can prevent incidents from occurring.

:12 seconds - “The best way...” “...or indeed even killed.”